

**Comment Summary
Citizens Information Workshop
Winston-Salem Northern Beltway Eastern Section Extension
(TIP No. U-2579A)**

A public information workshop was held on November 1, 2001 at the gymnasium of Sedge Garden Elementary School. At the meeting, 1,200-foot project study corridors were displayed both on an aerial base and on a street base. Additionally, a typical section of the proposed Eastern Section Extension was available for viewing. Approximately 342 people attended the meeting.

A public officials' meeting was also held on November 1, 2001 at City Hall South in Winston-Salem. The same displays shown at the public information workshop were shown at the public officials' meeting. Sixteen public officials attended the meeting.

The public and public officials had the opportunity to comment either at the meeting or by mail. The response deadline for the public was November 15, 2001. Eighteen public comments were received at the meeting. Fourteen comments were received in the mail, and three comments were received from public officials.

The following sections summarize the results of the public comments.

Project Support

A total of 37 comments were received. Seven of the comments were in favor of the project. Twenty-eight of the commenters were opposed to the project, and two commenters were undecided.

Alternative Preferences

Visitors to the public information workshop were asked to choose their favorite and least favorite alternatives. The following table provides the results of the alternative preferences.

Results of Survey for Alternative Preference		
Alternative	Preference	
	Favorite	Least Favorite
Alternative N1	2	0
Alternative N2	3	2
Alternative N3	6	1
Alternative S1	4	8
Alternative S2	7	6
All	0	6
None	7	0
No Preference	8	11

Many citizens did not specify a favorite alternative. However, Alternative S2 and Alternative N3 had the greatest preference. Similarly, most citizens did not specify a least favorite alternative. The alternatives that were the least favorite of the citizens were Alternative S1 for the southern Alternatives and Alternative N2 for the northern alternatives. Some citizens did not like any of the alternatives proposed.

Citizen Concerns

Members of the public were also asked to provide information related to their concerns regarding the Extension to the Eastern Section of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway. Concerns were listed as follows:

Project Need

- Too much uncertainty currently exists to offer any comments.
- The highway would only serve those who would use the Eastern Section Extension, which would be part of the I-74 corridor, as a way to travel through the Winston-Salem area.
- The Eastern Section Extension is not needed because of the fact that the Triad has had recent economic losses and also that high speed rail appears to be on the horizon.
- One citizen asked whether the traffic volumes would exist to justify the cost needed to construct the Eastern Section Extension.

Project Schedule and Funding

- One citizen inquired about the earliest date that construction would start.
- The Eastern Section Extension would take too long to construct, as it is currently not funded in the TIP.
- The western portion of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway to be delayed as a result of the Eastern Section and Eastern Section Extension environmental approval process.

Community Impacts

- Constructing the Eastern Section Extension would upset a way of life that has taken a lifetime to establish. The overall quality of life within the area would be reduced because of the Eastern Section Extension.
- Constructing the Eastern Section Extension would destroy established, rural neighborhoods in the area.
- Building the Eastern Section Extension would not only uproot families that have lived in the area for generations but would also impact extended families.
- Also, two citizens stated that they did not want to relocate, as they were either too old to move or have lived in their home for so long that they don't want to have to move and rebuild.
- The Eastern Section Extension would impact the Sedge Garden community, especially the area adjacent to Sedge Garden Elementary School. Also, the Eastern Section Extension would impact the proposed middle school northeast of Sedge Garden Elementary School.

Human Impacts

- A cemetery is located behind their house and that constructing the Eastern Section Extension so that it takes their house would destroy the cemetery.
- A citizen stated that they had restored an old (90+ years) farmhouse and have an old (100+ years) grove of oak trees located behind their house. If the highway were to be built, it would destroy both the cemetery and the oak grove.

Land Use Impacts

- Adding too many interchanges along the Eastern Section Extension would encourage not only haphazard development but also urban sprawl and resulting traffic problems.

Property Impacts

- Both the construction of the roadway and the study of the alternative corridors would devalue their homes. Construction of the project would result in people not being able to sell their homes.
- The State of North Carolina would not fairly compensate those families that would lose their homes as a result of being directly in the path of the Eastern Section Extension.

- Several residential developments are in the process of being constructed within the study corridors. Construction of the Eastern Section Extension would either directly impact those homes by removing them or would indirectly impact those homes by lowering their value.
- One citizen, who owns a dog kennel business, said that they would go out of business if the Eastern Section Extension required their land because they would be unable to find suitable land with water elsewhere that would be at a reasonable price.

Traffic and Design Concerns

- The Eastern Section Extension would need to be a limited access freeway.
- The Kernersville Road area should have access to the proposed Eastern Section Extension.
- One citizen expressed concerns regarding potential road closings that could result from constructing the Eastern Section Extension.
- Another citizen inquired about the type of barrier (cable, concrete, etc.) that would be utilized in the median of the Eastern Section Extension.

Environmental Concerns

- The project would bring higher traffic volumes to the area, which would result in several environmental concerns.
- Concerns were voiced related to the increase of noise that would come from the traffic that the Eastern Section Extension would accommodate.
- Noise barriers would be needed to reduce noise impacts to any residential areas that would be located near the Eastern Section Extension.
- Concerns were expressed related to the potential increase in air pollution that would result from the traffic that the Eastern Section Extension would accommodate.
- The project would destroy the green spaces already existing within that portion of Forsyth County.